

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OFA-01 OES-03 DLOS-04 SAL-01 CG-00

DOT-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 /077 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE: APINKNEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 023092

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK, MARR, MIL, NATO

SUBJECT:ICELAND/UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: TALKS WITH BRITISH
EMBOFFS

REF: REYKJAVIK 129

1. BRITISH POLITICAL COUNSELOR SCOTT AND COLLEAGUE CALLED
ON VINE TO LAY OUT BRITISH POSITION. SCOTT HAD LESS
DETAIL THAN BRITISH POSITION OUTLINED REFTTEL, BUT DID ADD
THAT BRITISH OFFER INCLUDED: A) AN INTERIM FISHING
REGIME PENDING FURTHER TALKS, B) AN OFFER OF AID FOR THE
ICELANDIC ECONOMY, C) NEUTRAL MEDIATION, AND D) A WILLING-
NESS TO TALK ABOUT CONSERVATION.

2. SCOTT UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUE IN
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HULL, GRIMSBY AND FLEETWOOD. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT

FAILURE OF BRITISH NAVY TO PROTECT BRITISH FISHERMEN COULD BE USED BY OPPONENTS OF BRITISH DEFENSE BUDGET IN THEIR ARGUMENTS AGAINST AN ADEQUATE BUDGET. SCOTT WARNED THAT THESE AND OTHER POLITICAL PROBLEMS MAY MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR THE UK TO SEND THE FRIGATES BACK INTO THE FISHERIES ZONE.

3. VINE SAID THAT THE PRESENT US READING OF THE MOOD IN

ICELAND IS THAT THE RETURN OF THE BRITISH FRIGATES WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO REACH ANY NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. HE DESCRIBED THE FRAILTY OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ICELAND, IN PARTICULAR THE VULNERABILITY OF HALLGRIMSSON, AND AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE AND NATO ATTACH TO THE FACILITIES IN ICELAND.

4. HE POINTED OUT THAT OUR ABILITY TO ACT CONSTRUCTIVELY WAS HAMPERED BY THE CURRENT DEBATE IN ICELAND OVER WHETHER WE HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THAT COUNTRY.

5. SCOTT PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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